

[CONFIDENTIAL.]

[No. 5 of 1876.]

REPORT ON NATIVE PAPERS

FOR

The Week ending the 29th January, 1876.

THE Editor of the *Burdwan Pracháriká* of the 14th January 1876, says that owing to want of funds in the Burdwan municipality the roads of that place are not being lighted or watered, and yet a present of Rs. 400 is spoken of for the retiring Secretary. The Chairman is urgently requested to see to matters that would be beneficial to the place.

BURDWAN
PRACHARIKA,
January 14th, 1876.

2. Referring to the prevalence of cholera and of malarious fever from which many persons are dying at Báruipore, the *Vishwa Dút* deplors that while people readily spend large sums of money on frivolous objects, such as pleasure gardens and the like, nobody ever cares to see that the above evils may not recur.

VISHWA DÚT,
January 19th, 1876.

3. The *Hindu Ranjika* has the following on the municipality of Boáliá:—

HINDU RANJIKÁ,
January 19th, 1876.

If it is the duty of municipal committees to see that the public health is preserved, and that people can get about conveniently, the Municipal Committee of Boáliá should see, (1) that the roads under their jurisdiction, which are in an extremely bad condition, be repaired, and that arrangements be made for watering them regularly; (2) that latrines and privies be not erected, and that sweepings and filthy things be not thrown, beside the public paths; (3) that the numerous tanks and kháls which are overgrown with jungle, and into which *meheters* throw night-soil, be cleared; that their impure water be let out, and pure water let in by connecting them with fresh-water canals, and that steps be adopted by which the water may be kept pure and good.

If in the above-mentioned ways the people's inconveniences be not removed by municipalities, they should not trouble the people by levying taxes from them.

4. The Bagra correspondent of the *Bhárat Mihir* of the 19th January, reports an outbreak of cholera at Bagra.

BHARAT MIHIR,
January 19th, 1876.

5. The *Education Gazette* of the 21st January, says that a communication has been made to that paper to the effect that for the last month cholera has been raging at Sákrál, Rám Chundrapur, Máinkhur, Rájgunj, and many other villages in the Burdwan division.

EDUCATION GAZETTE
January 21st, 1876.

6. In a letter addressed to the *Bhárat Sangskárák* of the 21st January, the writer says that Eriádaha tháná had hitherto been located in the middle part of Baráhanagar. It has lately been removed near to the bazar, where there is also an outpost. We cannot understand what good objects will be served by this. If the District Superintendent of Police will order the location of the outpost in the middle part of Baráhanagar, it will be a move in the right direction.

BHARAT
SANGSKARAK,
January 21st, 1876.

BHARAT
SANGSKARAN,
January 21st, 1876.

GRAMVARTA
PRAKASHIKA,
January 22nd, 1876.

7. The same paper recommends that Babu Rájendra Lála Mittra, the Reverend K. M. Banerjee, and Pundit Iswar Chundra Vidyáságar may be invested with honorary degrees by the University of Calcutta.

8. Referring to the retirement of Sir William Muir, the *Grámvártá Prakáshiká* of the 22nd January 1876, says that the *Statesman* has proposed that the Hon'ble Mr. Justice Phear may be appointed Finance Minister, and that the *Soma Prakásh* has proposed that Sir T. Mádhava Rái be appointed. If it be proposed that an Englishman fresh from England be appointed, then with all candour and fairness we advocate the claims of the Hon'ble Judge of the High Court. Though Sir Mádhava has successfully managed the finances of native states, we cannot say that he will be quite up to the mark as to the finances of the extensive Empire of British India. But it may with strict justice be said that if an intelligent Englishman well acquainted with the country, filled the place of the Minister of Finance in British India, Sir Mádhava Rái would prove an excellent assistant, and by this arrangement great benefit might be secured to the people.

GRAMVARTA
PRAKASHIKA.

9. A correspondent of the same paper mentions a case of zemindaree oppression in Kumárháli. He says that if any person besides certain accredited shop-keepers, sell anything in the market, he has to pay cess to the zemindar at a certain fixed rate. But are those also who sell milk, &c., from door to door, subject to the same rule? A certain hawker sold a pitcher of milk, and was standing at the door of the buyer waiting for the price, when the zemindar's man came and demanded of the hawker the usual cess. On inquiry it was found that the cess was demanded in obedience to an order of the zemindar. Many poor persons sell milk, &c., from house to house, to avoid the cess that is levied from the sellers in the market. It is, moreover, a great boon to houses occupied by females and where there are no male members, to be able to purchase necessary articles from such hawkers, as the customs of the country forbid the female members of respectable houses, however poor, to go to market. If, however, people are required to pay cess even when they sell things in the streets, it will greatly inconvenience both buyers and sellers, and will raise the price of many necessary articles.

We know that there are few zemindars so pious as Devendra Babu. We therefore do not believe the order has emanated from him.

GRAMVARTA
PRAKASHIKA.

10. Referring to the proposals of the Lieutenant-Governor of Bengal to construct small detached railways, the same paper says that a railway should first of all be constructed in Eastern Bengal. Eastern Bengal is the granary of Bengal, nay of India. Various articles of commerce come from it. If, therefore, a line of railway can be laid across Eastern Bengal, not only will the different parts of the country be benefited by the facility with which imports will be made, but the railway funds will thereby be greatly augmented. Which of the proposed detached lines will do the country an equal amount of good? Sir Richard Temple indeed mentions large rivers as an obstacle to this project. A steamer on the Pudmá would obviate all difficulty, and a railway might be constructed throughout almost the whole of Eastern Bengal. It needs only a glance from the English Engineers to make a bridge over the upper part of the Dhaleswarí. This river, again, is almost dry. Since the Jumna has taken a different course, the bed of the Dhaleswarí has almost dried up. This river crossed, a line may easily be laid connecting Dacca, Naraingunge, Mymensingh, Sylhet, Comillah, Noakhally, Chittagong, and other places. Of course the road will not be straight.

11. In connection with the attempt of the East Indian Railway Company to give the natives of this country some of the appointments hitherto held by Europeans, the above paper has the following :—" The Governor-General has informed the Company's Agent that except for very great faults the Company will have to obtain sanction of the Consulting Engineer to the dismissal of any of their European employes. The fact is that Government sanction must be obtained to the appointment of any native in place of any European. The Agent is in favour of the European. The Government also is in favour of the European, to the detriment of the native; so that it is impossible that the natives of this country should succeed in obtaining the coveted appointments."

GRAMVARTA
PRAKASHIKA,
January 22nd, 1876.

12. The *Sádhārani* says, " We hear that Lord Northbrook is leaving India because he has offended the Secretary of State. If after what he has done for our good he has failed to secure the esteem of the Secretary of State, we cannot imagine what is in store for us."

SADHARANI,
January 23rd, 1876.

13. We take the following from the *Soma Prakásh* of the 24th January. The rumour as to the retirement of Sir Richard Temple from office, is gradually becoming widely prevalent, though we are not, however, fully prepared to credit it. Sir Richard has been in charge of the administration for a short time only, and it is unlikely that he should become so soon wearied with, or discover his inability to discharge, the duties of his office. Even if we had not respected him, we should not have desired his retirement. The country hopes much from him. (1.) It is through his exertions that the *páthshálás* of Sir George Campbell are gradually improving in efficiency, and his earnestness leads us to think that these institutions may to some extent at some time prove beneficial. We shall make some new suggestions regarding these *páthshálás*. It is well known to all of us that the *páthshálás* in this country are for the most part held in the houses of well-to-do men, where the guru mahasháya also obtains free board, while the schooling fees realized from the pupils go to support his family. Under these circumstances the scanty aid granted by Government to these *páthshálás* does but little good. In our opinion a portion of this sum should be given to the pundits of vernacular schools and the Sub-Deputy Inspectors to induce them to examine the pupils of the *páthshálás* every year, at some fixed time. And if the vernacular schools were given a somewhat long vacation, as is the case in English schools, the pundits might easily utilize this recess in examining the *páthshálás* of adjacent villages. This system would be a means of testing the education of the *páthshálá* pupils. The remaining portion of the Government grant should be given as rewards to the gurus, which again should be regulated by the position each *páthshálá* succeeds in obtaining in the examination. This method will induce the gurus to improve themselves, and will prove beneficial to the pupils also. (2) Sir Richard Temple has given us great hopes in connection with municipal reform. The whole country has memorialized him for the introduction into the municipalities, of the elective system while he also has promised them success. The elective principle, if introduced, is likely to be highly beneficial; but even here there is something to be feared. The educated and intelligent portion of the people do not generally desire to mix with the illiterate and the common folk. Now the elective system would require the former to go about begging for the votes of these latter. We are not sure whether many will be found prepared to sacrifice their self-respect to the extent which will be required by this proceeding. We fear that under this system really able persons will not be willing to become Municipal Commissioners. The ambitious and the wealthy alone will secure the votes by

SOMA PRAKASH,
January 23rd, 1876.

the free use of their money. The system has been fraught with numerous evil consequences in America, France, and many other countries, and it is only in England that it has met with partial success. Sir Richard Temple is an Englishman, and knows how to do away with this source of evil. He has moreover shown himself as our benefactor. We look up to him for the reform of our municipalities. (3.) His Honor has proposed to construct several branch railways in the country which are greatly needed. He has inspired us with high hopes in several other matters, and it does not behove him to leave for England before reducing these projects to accomplished facts.

SOMA PRAKASH,
January 24th, 1876.

14. The same paper in an article on the reduction of expenditure, dwells on the advisability of reducing the expenditure incurred by Government on its civil administration. If reduction is ever to be effected and with success, it must be here. The Military Department cannot safely be interfered with, nor the Department of Public Works, which, though proverbially extravagant, is not such as to admit of considerable retrenchments, for the latter proceeding will impair its usefulness. Now, in the civil department savings may be effected by a more extensive system of employing native labour and reducing the scale of salaries; circumstances which occasioned the allowance of high salaries to civil servants do not exist any longer. A voyage to and from England is no longer what it once was.

SOMA PRAKASH.

15. In a letter addressed to the same paper, the writer complains that the road cess funds are not used for their proper purposes. While the cess is regularly levied by the zemindars from the poor tenantry, the roads used by them are in a wretched condition. The road named Mati Ullár Jángál, which passes near the village Kodáliá, is an instance in point. The condition of the plantations also is miserable. The attention of Babu Mahimá Charan Pál, the Deputy Magistrate of Báruipur, is drawn to this matter.

SAHACHAR,
January 24th, 1876.

16. The *Sahachar* of the 24th January asks the legislature to amend the present law of limitation; at least that portion of it that relates to the enforcement of decrees. The present law, in reducing the time during which a decree may be reinforced, has caused a fruitful source of inconvenience. Act XIV of 1859 was considerably better in this respect.

SAHACHAR.

17. The same paper heartily approves of the proposal of Government to appoint a manager for all undivided joint estates. The constant dissensions between the co-sharers occasion considerable inconvenience and oppression to the tenantry, while from the same cause no improvement is made in the estates. The proposal, if carried out, will do an immense deal of good to the country.

BEHAR BANDHU,
January 19th, 1876.

18. The *Behár Bandhu* has the following on the resignation of Lord Northbrook:—"This nobleman has acquired all manner of good fame during his tenure of office as Governor-General, but he will never be able during his lifetime to remove the stain arising from the deposition of Mulhar Ráo on a false charge. It is a matter for much rejoicing that Lord Lytton has been appointed successor. His father was a great dramatist. Lord Lytton was for sometime employed both as a Secretary and as an Ambassador, and in 1875 refused the Governorship of Madras when offered him. Nothing is as yet known of his administrative abilities, though his present appointment will serve to bring them out. India has much to hope from him after the good fame he has acquired in France, Russia, and other countries. Let us see, however, what fate has destined for him.

19. The Editor of the *Jám-Jehan-numá* makes the following complaint with reference to the rate of exchange existing between the Burmese coin and the Government rupee. The former is paid for at the rate of five rupees in Burma, and when brought into British territory realizes only four rupees. So that the Burmese Government derive a large profit by the transaction, to the loss and injury of the subjects of another Government. It would therefore be a great favour if this inequality were got rid of.

JAM-JEHANNUMA,
January 21st, 1876.

BENGALI TRANSLATOR'S OFFICE,

R. J. ELLIS,

The 29th January, 1876.

Offg. Government Bengali Translator.

*List of Native Newspapers received and examined for the Week ending the
29th January, 1876.*

No.	Name.	Place of publication.	Monthly, weekly, or otherwise.	Date.
1	"Pramodí" ...	Muktágáchchá ...	Monthly	Agraháyan 1282.
2	"Rangpur Dik Prakash" ...	Kákinia, Rungpore ...	Weekly	6th and 13th January 1876.
3	"Burdwan Pracháriká" ...	Burdwan, Sonákunda ...	Ditto	14th and 21st January 1876.
4	"Barisál Vártávaha" ...	Barisál ...	Ditto	19th ditto.
5	"Vishwa Dút" ...	Kálighát, Calcutta ...	Ditto	19th ditto.
6	"Hindu Ranjiká" ...	Boália, Rájsháhi ...	Ditto	19th ditto.
7	"Bhárata Mihir" ...	Máimansing ...	Ditto	19th ditto.
8	"Amrita Bázár Patriká" ...	Calcutta ...	Ditto	20th ditto.
9	"Bhárat Sangskarak" ...	Harinábhi, ...	Ditto	21st ditto.
10	"Education Gazette" ...	Hughli ...	Ditto	21st ditto.
11	"Grámvártá Prakashiká" ...	Kumárháli ...	Ditto	22nd ditto.
12	"Hindu Hitoishini" ...	Dacca ...	Ditto	22nd ditto.
13	"Sádháraní" ...	Chinsurah ...	Ditto	23rd ditto.
14	"Dacca Prakash" ...	Dacca ...	Ditto	23rd ditto.
15	"Sabachar" ...	Calcutta ...	Ditto	24th ditto.
16	"Soma Prakash" ...	Chingripotá ...	Ditto	24th ditto.
17	"Sáptárik Samáchar" ...	Calcutta ...	Ditto	25th ditto.
18	"Samáchar Chandriká" ...	Ditto ...	Bi-Weekly	20th and 24th January 1876.
19	"Sambád Purnachandrodaya" ...	Ditto ...	Daily	From 21st to 26th January 1876.
20	"Sambád Prabhakar" ...	Ditto ...	Ditto	From 20th to 22nd " "
21	"Behár Bandhu" (in <i>Hindi</i>) ...	Bankipur, Patna ...	Weekly	19th January 1876.
22	"Jám Jehán-numá" (in <i>Persian</i>) ...	Calcutta ...	Ditto	21st ditto.
23	"Urdu Guide" (in <i>Urdu</i>) ...	Ditto ...	Ditto	22nd ditto.

Bengal Secretariat Press.

